

## Background on the My Lai Hearings and Report

In November 1969, the House Armed Services Investigating Subcommittee conducted hearings regarding allegations of criminal actions by members of Company C (1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 20<sup>th</sup> Infantry (1/20<sup>th</sup>) Americal Division, supported by an artillery battery from the 11<sup>th</sup> Brigade, and assigned to Task Force Barker), at the hamlet My Lai 4 in Son My Village, Quang Ngai Province, Republic of Vietnam, on March 16, 1968. On December 12, 1969, House Armed Services Committee Chairman L. Mendel Rivers announced that, based on the testimony given at these hearings, he concluded it would be necessary for this subcommittee to “go into this matter of the My Lai incident in depth.” Chairman Rivers appointed a special subcommittee, henceforth known as the My Lai Incident Subcommittee and chaired by Rep. F. Edward Hébert, to make an assessment of the My Lai incident independent of the Army’s ongoing investigation (the [Peers Inquiry](#)). This special subcommittee conducted hearings from April 15 to June 22, 1970, to investigate the events of March 16, 1968, focusing on military policies, orders, and directives regarding the treatment of civilians and the investigation of alleged civilian casualties. Based on the investigation and testimony given at these hearings, on July 15, 1970, the subcommittee released a report of its findings. The subcommittee concluded that “responsible officers of the Americal Division and 11<sup>th</sup> Brigade failed to make adequate, timely investigation and report of the My Lai allegations,” and that the My Lai matter was “‘covered up’ within the Americal Division and by the District and Province Advisory Teams.”

The 1970 hearings were conducted in executive session, and the testimony given was classified, subject to release when final disposition was made of all criminal cases arising from the My Lai incident. On April 13, 1976, House Armed Services Committee Chairman Melvin Price advised Rep. Hébert that the U.S. Supreme Court’s April 5 decision, which denied the petition of Lt. William L. Calley, Jr. for a review of his court-martial conviction, concluded the last of the prosecutions resulting from the My Lai incident, and he therefore authorized the printing of the transcript of the 1970 hearings.